

From: bbohling@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:54am
Subject: disagree with Microsoft settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I must disagree with the Dept of Justice settlement in the Microsoft anti-trust case. While I don't feel the agreement appropriately addresses the issue of Microsoft's misconduct, my primary objection is that the agreement lets Microsoft pay their penalty "in kind" by donating software and technical support. Since Microsoft themselves establish the price tag for what the software and support are worth, the agreement basically just says Microsoft has to pay a fine and get to determine how much that fine will be. They have the money; if they want to pay off their debt by helping schools, make them do it with cash.

The agreement as it stands is simply a concession to Microsoft on the order of just putting a black star in the book next to their name. If they are indeed guilty of the unfair practices they've been charged with, that's not enough.

regards,
Bill Bohling

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The views expressed in this letter are mine alone and do not in any way reflect the views and opinions of those whose mail server I'm on.